

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 IGA-02 TRSE-00 OMB-01 CIAE-00  
DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01  
PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /066 W  
----- 127353 /73

R 141546Z DEC 76  
FM AMEMBASSY LISBON  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9524  
INFO AMEMBASSY MADRID  
AMEMBASSY PARIS  
AMEMBASSY ROME

C O N F I D E N T I A L LISBON 8599

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PO, PINT  
SUBJECT: SOARES ON EUROCOMMUNISM

REF: (A) STATE 293936, (B) LISBON 8564

1. SOARES INVITED ME TO LUNCH DEC 13 TO DISCUSS OUR LOAN PROGRAM (REFTEL B); I TOOK ADVANTAGE OF OCCASION TO RAISE EUROCOMMUNISM WITH HIM. I SPECIFICALLY ASKED IF HE DIDN'T THINK HIS STATEMENTS ON THIS SUBJECT (REFTEL A) HURT THE SOCIALIST PARTIES IN OTHER COUNTRIES.
2. SOARES GAVE A LONG REPLY, THE ESSENCE OF WHICH WAS THAT COMMUNISM IS A DANGER WHEREVER IT EXISTS BUT ITS TACTICS VARY FROM COUNTRY TO COUNTRY AND THE RESPONSE OF DEMOCRATIC FORCES MUST VARY CORRESPONDINGLY. HE HAS NOT ENDORSED EUROCOMMUNISM; HE HAS SIMPLY POINTED OUT THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE TACTICS OF THE PORTUGUESE COMMUNIST PARTY AND THE WILLINGNESS OF OTHER EUROPEAN COMMUNIST PARTIES TO STATE PUBLICLY THEIR ACCEPTANCE OF THE RULES OF THE DEMOCRATIC PROCESS.
3. SOARES DID NOT FEEL HIS STATEMENTS HURT HIS FELLOW SOCIALISTS; TO THE CONTRARY HE ARGUED THAT THEY WERE CONSISTENT WITH THE TACTICS BEING FOLLOWED BY SOCIALISTS IN OTHER COUNTRIES. COMMUNISM IN THOSE COUNTRIES HAD TO BE DEALT WITH SUBTLY. THE KEY WAS TO ENSURE SOLID CONFIDENTIAL

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SOCIALIST LEFTIST CREDENTIALS AND AVOID A RIGHT-WING PHALANX THAT WOULD FORFEIT THE WORKING CLASSES TO THE COMMUNISTS. THE DANGER WAS THAT THE SOCIALISTS THEMSELVES WOULD BE INFILTRATED BY "LOPES CARDOSOS," BUT THIS

WAS THE LESSER RISK. HE ALSO ARGUED THAT EUROCOMMUNISM HAS CREATED SERIOUS PROBLEMS FOR THE SOVIET UNION DESPITE THE DANGERS IT PRESENTED FOR THE WEST.

4. SOARES LEFT NO DOUBT THAT HIS STATEMENTS ON EUROCOMMUNISM WERE EXPRESSLY DESIGNED TO KEEP CUNHAL ON THE DEFENSIVE. AS LONG AS THIS IS THE CASE AND AS LONG AS THE OTHER SOCIALIST PARTIES DON'T COMPLAIN I DOUBT WE CAN DISSUADE HIM FROM MAKING SUCH STATEMENTS.  
CARLUCCI

CONFIDENTIAL

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